

# The Ascent

Daemen College

April 30th, 2008

## Hard Work Pays Off for Graduates

by Jen Yockey

Have you ever wondered whether all your hard work will pay off after graduation and if that dream career you have aspired to work in will come true? The answer probably is, "Yes!"

In a recent interview with the Director of Co-Op and Career Development, Maureen Huber, job placement rates of Daemen College were discussed. Out of the 697 students who graduated in 2006, 90% of them are now employed either full or part time within their first year after graduation.

Accounting majors reported a base salary of \$20,000 all the way up to \$54,999. The median range for these graduates is \$30,000 to \$39,999.

Education majors have a more varied range of salaries due to the vast array of jobs within their spectrum such as teacher aides, substitute teachers, classroom teachers, or daycare specialists. Some respondents to the survey replied that they were making less than \$15,000, while others reported salaries from \$20,000 to \$44,999.

The physical therapy graduates had the largest range of reported salaries, \$35,000 all the way to \$80,000 or higher. Why? For one thing, the physical therapy program now requires a doctorate, which extends the program to five years.

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President Martin Anisman and other officials sign the last I-beam for the new library building.

## Last I-Beam Placed On Library Building

The last I-beam for the new library building was lifted to its lofty spot on the Daemen College campus on March 19.

"This is a great day for the college -- this symbolic last beam," President Martin J. Anisman said during a brief ceremony, in which members of the Daemen community were invited to sign their names to the beam.

"Every time I talked about this," the president quipped, "(Head Librarian) Glenn Woike said it would never happen. This is a big step."

A cheer went up in the crowd outside the future Center for Information, Research and Community Programs.

"I'm eating my words," Woike said with a chuckle later in his office in the 50-year-old Marian Library. "This was the third time this project was proposed. It had been pretty well dead until 1994, when I was asked to write a vision statement

on what the library of the 21st Century will look like. So it's been a while."

Woike, who came to Daemen 27 years ago, wants Daemen students to know that this will be a student-centered building



Glenn Woike

that will serve as the academic heart and soul of the campus, just as Wick Center is the focal point for recreation and social life.

"Students have been involved in all aspects of the planning," he said. "We've had two surveys of the student body to determine what's going to be in the building, and how the study space is going

to be arranged. It will have some unconventional spaces and won't look like any library they've seen before."

Now students are trying out the various pieces of "demonstration furniture" that had been placed in the old library, and jotting down their comments in a sign-in book.

"The intention," Woike said, "is that when a student has any kind of assignment due in class, they can go to this building and find all the help and resources they need to finish that assignment before handing it in. This means we're combining a lot of functions that are already in the college into one building."

Under a single roof, students will find library assistants and staffers from the Writing Center, from Academic computing, from Academic Advising and from the Learning Center to meet their every need.

The building is expected to be occupied by winter 2009.

## No A/C for Duns Scotus

by Breann Mangione

Students and faculty at Daemen College are furious that there is no air conditioning in Duns Scotus Hall.

Duns Scotus is composed of twenty-eight classrooms, nineteen science laboratories, eleven art studios, lounges, a bookstore, a lounge area with snack-bar, an audiovisual center and the Fanette Goldman and Carolyn Greenfield Art Gallery. It is a very popular building at Daemen College that students and faculty depend on.

D.S. is a beautiful building and offers much. One question remains. Why do students and teachers not want to go there when the weather starts to get nice?

It's because they boil!

Frank Sweitzer, the director of physical plant, is working on the new library building. He said the new building itself will be independent. Therefore, air conditioning and heat will be in that building only.

Sweitzer said, "As of right now the plan is to put a thermo-thermal water source heat pump system, which will include air conditioning and heat, in Duns Scotus. Questions are still being answered, and it is not definite, and like I said it is still in the design stage, and will take some time".

Dun Scotus Hall has no air conditioning where it's needed most - in the classrooms. The George Lucas Educational Foundation

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# Waiting for Internet to Catch Up at Daemen

Waiting for <http://www.daemen.edu>... If you go to Daemen College, you have undoubtedly seen this on your computer screen in your internet browser window at some time. You have more than likely sat, losing patience, waiting for the "waiting" to end and the page to load.

From my experiences living on campus and also using campus computers in computer labs, I would characterize the internet and e-mail services here as sort of hit or miss. I remember asking myself: Will I be able to actually check my e-mail before class or not? Will the internet in my room go down at various points over the weekend and perhaps not get back running again until Monday? If you are a resident, I am sure you can relate to this

At the same time, I readily admit that the internet and e-mail systems at Daemen College have shown signs of improvement since I first came here back in the fall of 2004. I only wish to raise the issue, largely in part because I have noticed I am not the only student who has this concern.

In a short survey that I conducted, I found that Daemen College students spend an average of about four hours per week using the internet for school related purposes, including checking Daemen e-mail accounts. Today, the internet is clearly an essential part of college learning and coursework. Many courses and assignments cannot be completed without using the internet, and many professors post assignments and information online through the Blackboard program. With all this reliance on online resources, it is imperative that students have fast and reliable internet connections through which to access the information.

In my survey, I found that 89 percent of students interviewed answered "no" to the question: "Are you satisfied with the internet that Daemen College has on campus for you to use?" It is very troubling to see that nearly nine out of ten students at Daemen do not feel the internet they are provided with is adequate and/or reliable enough to meet their needs in an efficient manner.

In my travels, I have used internet services at other colleges and universities and have noticed that their internet is far superior to ours at Daemen. Students whom I surveyed also agreed with this line of thinking. When asked how they felt the internet at Daemen College compared to other schools, the aforementioned 89 percent of students who are unsatisfied with their internet services, felt that Daemen is "worse" than other schools they have visited or attended. One student did say that the internet here was "about the same" as others she has experienced. Not one student said that Daemen internet was "better."

The survey that I conducted, as well as opinions I have heard informally around campus, are very telling of where Daemen ranks in internet service, at least in the minds of students. Is it too much to ask to make some further improvements and invest some more money to finally give the students of Daemen College what they almost unanimously desire?

-- Justin Johnston



## Differing Strategies on Tuition

By Alexys Massey

How are students dealing with the rising tuition costs at Daemen College?

The most common strategy is applying for financial aid, which offers an array of options to help students pay for college. During the 1998-99 school year, the TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) paid \$1.56 million to full-time students at Daemen. With the rising tuition costs, TAP is now paying nearly \$2.22 million each year.

This averages out to \$2,608 per year per student, according to the State Financial Aid at New York State Colleges and

Universities website.

Still, TAP doesn't even settle half of a Daemen tuition bill. Tuition is currently \$18,300 per year for undergrad and doesn't include the cost of room and board. This drives students to apply for loans and other aid.

On average, students are receiving \$9,133 in subsidized loans each academic year, putting them \$36,532 in debt after four years from subsidized loans only. Not to mention unsubsidized and parent loans that students apply for, which average at \$8,942 each year.

So, how do students feel

about being thousands of dollars in debt after graduation? One senior says, "I think that the price should reflect the quality of education, and I do not like paying extensive costs out of my own pocket for classes that leave me frustrated like I never learned anything new..."

A junior says, "I think it [the tuition] is too high, considering how outdated the campus buildings are. The academics are excellent but Daemen's campus is not the most attractive college campus I've ever seen."

On the other hand, another junior argues, "I think tuition is about right for the small classes and personal attention."

## Join the Ascent!

We are looking for writers, columnists, reviewer, cartoonists, photographers and copy editors, along with graphic arts people to make up our pages by computer.

The nucleus of our staff was formed by students taking CMP 247, Writing for the Campus Newspaper, which is taught by Anthony Cardinale. The three credit course will be offered again in the fall (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m.). For those wishing to work on the Ascent staff without enrolling in the course - the English Department is now offering Ascent staffers one hour of academic credit per semester, for up to four semesters. You can e-mail messages and articles to: [daemen.ascent@gmail.com](mailto:daemen.ascent@gmail.com).

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# A Drink Without Punch

by Nick Hauser  
Editor-in-Chief

We all know how it is. We're all college students. We study, we work, we recreate and we even show up to class most of the time. We burn the candle at both ends, as they say, and sometimes we need something extra.

Perhaps you're old fashioned and would opt for the classic cup of coffee or tea. There's nothing wrong with drinking coffee, if you're trying to churn out a five-page paper on the history of the Cold War, at 1:00 in the morning. But maybe you need something more. Maybe you would rather go for an energy drink, such as a Red Bull, a Monster or a Mountain Dew Amp, for example. With enough of those, one could knock out a 65-page lesson plan in a single night (extreme exaggeration for effect).

Alas, one company would like to discredit the

energy drinks that many college students have come to depend on.

The Chaser Energy Corporation (yeah, the one with the hangover pill) has recently released an energy drink they call 5-Hour Energy. The promise is to give the same boost that you would receive from ordinary, sugar-filled energy drinks, without the "crash" later on. The drink is actually more of a shot at only 2 fluid ounces per bottle. Each bottle sells for about \$2.49 to \$2.99, depending on the retailer. You would figure if you're paying more than a dollar an ounce, the stuff must work wonders.

I find myself in the middle of a six-hour shift at work after a long day of classes and see a new product on the shelf behind me. I had seen the commercial and decided I'd give it a try. After all, what's life about if we don't try everything at least once? So I gladly doled out the 3 bucks and read the label. Appar-

ently it had an "improved berry flavor." It said so in shiny yellow letters, so I believed it. It tasted more like decade-old Robitussin cough syrup. That's okay though, the cost and awful taste were the price I had to pay to get that sudden rush of sustained energy, right?

I felt nothing, beyond feeling ripped-off. I enjoyed the usual grogginess for the last three hours of my shift, locked up at midnight, and fell asleep soon after I arrived home.

It was right there on the bottle. It read, "results are typical, but individual results may vary." My results varied. I began mentioning the product to some friends and a few had tried the product with similar results. I was burned and I'll never see those three dollars again. Personally, I'm back to coffee. It's not trendy or full of amino acids, but it's been helping students get the job done for generations, and works just fine for writing a short editorial.

# Are Parking Solutions Around the Corner?

by Heather Gramza

Parking, a situation of great complaint on the Daemen College campus, hopefully will not cause as many problems in the future.

At the end of the fall 2007 semester a "Survey Monkey" parking survey was e-mailed to members of the campus community, in hopes of receiving some suggestions for improving the parking situation. Many responses were received, and the information gathered has been helpful to

the Parking Review Committee, which is continuing to evaluate the data.

It is expected that various recommendations from the surveys will be forwarded to the Cabinet at some point this semester. Once there has been a closer look at the data, an e-mail newsletter will be sent out responding to some of the specific questions and suggestions addressed in the survey responses.

Furthermore, four respondents of the survey who supplied a user name were chosen at random and received \$50 bookstore gift certificates for participating in the survey.



# Where Are All the Boys? Girls Rule at Daemen

by Missy Bakker

Recently Dr. Edward McMahon made a joke in his EDU237 class that one of the adult students had children, and the rest of the class might have illegitimate children running around and not know. The true humor of this comment lies in that there is only one boy in the class and the remainder are girls (find the humor on your own).

Next time you are sitting in class take a look around. Is the class made up of mostly girls? Are there any boys in your class at all?

If you feel that the number of female students at Daemen is disproportionate to the number of male

students, you are correct.

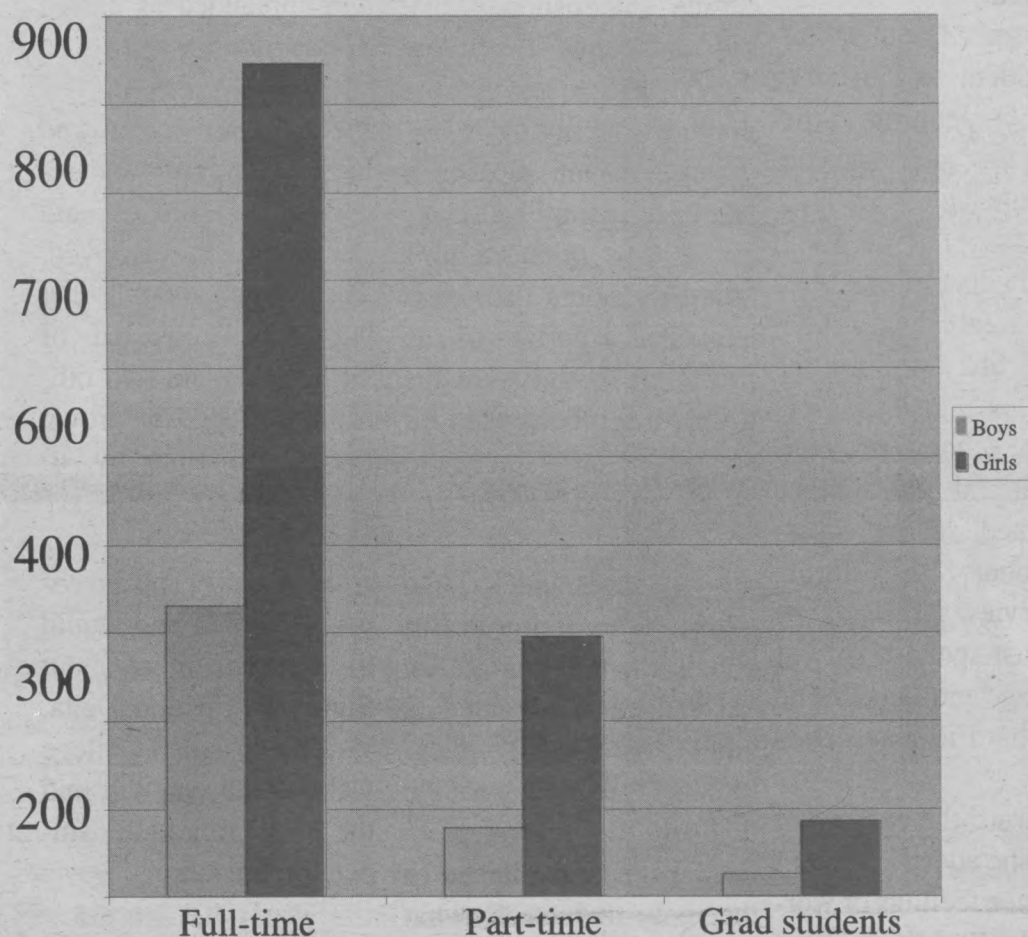
Recent statistics show that, in general, the female to male ratio at Daemen is 3:1. Focusing on full-time students at Daemen there are 945 females as opposed to the 330 males.

Why?

One reason may be traced back to Daemen's history. When the college began in 1947 as Rosary Hill it was established as an all-girls school by the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. It remained a female-only school until 1971. At this time returning Vietnam vets were in search of education under the GI Bill, and the administration viewed it as an optimal time to open doors to male students. But the influx of male students was still slight, and Daemen continued to be fe-

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Gender Breakdown at Daemen





# Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta Inducts Ten I Just Wanna Be Happy ...

by Heather Gramza

Alumni Lounge was full of Daemen students clad in maroon and pink. Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta, the college's Special Education Honorary, held its spring semester induction in the lounge located in Wick Center on Thursday, February 28.

Brandon Ash, President of SPED, approached the podium at 7:30 p.m. He informed the crowd of family members, friends, current SPED members and new inductees that 10 students would be inducted during the ceremony. He then introduced Dr. Bruce Shields, the founder of Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta at Daemen.

Dr. Shields welcomed all who were gathered, and told the history of Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta. He got a little choked up as he explained how the honorary at first consisted only of himself and two other students.

"Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta has shaped who I am today. I'm glad to be a part of such a great organization and profession that helps so many people," he concluded.

Former Daemen College student and member of SPED Jennifer Twist was the first guest speaker. She graduated from Daemen in the fall of 2006, and immediately was hired by the Sweet Home School District. She informed the crowd that Sigma is something the schools are interested in, and told that she was asked several questions about SPED during the interview process.

Twist spoke highly of the college and said, "I find it very hard to leave Daemen."

Toward the end of her speech she added, "When I experience feelings of worry and doubt, I think about why I became an educator to touch someone's life."

Marybeth Fortune, a Daemen education professor of a year and a half, spoke next.

"Being an educator is probably the most rewarding experience," she remarked.

She read some pages from a book called *Always Kiss Me Goodnight*, which contains various children's perspectives and suggestions for the adults in their lives. Professor Fortune "saved the best for last" as she read an excerpt from a young boy named Travis which said, "Keep on doing what you're doing."



Professor Fortune encouraged all members of Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta, old and new, to follow Travis' advice, and left the podium after saying, "Congratulations on picking a great profession!"

The organization's board members then each explained a portion of the SPED crest, and what the different symbols stand for as "Education is the key to our hopes and dreams."

Brandon Ash added: "The Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta motto is 'Reach out and touch somebody's hand'. As special educators that is exactly what we do every day."

After he explained to the new inductees what they were to do, reciting

the pledge, and congratulating them all in a somber tone, a burst of laughter shot through the room. The 10 new inductees, Stephen Blass, Nicole Bush, Rachel Carroll, Corie Dorefler, Nicole Freeman, Kaechen Martin, Heidi Memminger, Michael Scive, Laura Smead, and Amy Stewart were each called up to receive a certificate and light a candle.

Once all 10 inductees were standing before the crowd Brandon Ash announced, "Congratulations, I'll turn on the lights for some Kodak moments!"

Everybody laughed upon hearing this comment and applauded as a sign of congratulations.

Pictures were taken and hugs were given and received as cookies and punch were enjoyed. The organization that had once consisted of Dr. Shields and two other students had grown again, this time by 10 new members.

If you are a special education major and would like to learn more about Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta, visit the Daemen College website and you will find the SPED link under student organizations.

"Things just won't get right." Those were the last words my cousin said before she died.

I was asleep on the couch when my mother said, "Tam, that baby done killed herself!" I popped up as if I were not just in a deep sleep. It was actually the panic in my mother's voice that woke me up; I had not fully grasped the disturbing news. I rubbed the sleep from my eyes and said, "What baby? Who killed herself?" Toy!

I remember sitting on the edge of the couch as my mother went on about my cousin. As my mother spoke, I sat motionless. My mother's voice seemed to get lower and further away until I could no longer hear it. The only thing that stuck out was my cousin's last statement, "Things just won't get right."

Other than being in complete shock, I did not cry, I didn't ask why, I didn't even try to console my mother who really needed it at the time. I just put the recliner up and watched TV until I fell asleep.

Over the next couple of days all I could think of was her last words. They really hit home, because over the last four years and even more so recently all that I say is "Things just won't get right." I say it so much that sometimes I truly believe that things won't get right... for me.

In my mind, I went back to a day when a friend of mind asked me if I was happy. Although I knew the answer I could not answer my friend. I just brushed it off. I ask myself that now and my answer is I have times when I'm happy, but I'm not happy.

A line from a song by my favorite singer kept playing in my mind that says, "When you're feeling down you should never fake it." That one line kept playing over and over again like a broken record.

The music stopped one night when I was at work. I was already

on the edge without even knowing it. My co-workers were working my nerves, my cousin just died a horrible death, I hate work, I hate school, and things just won't get right. All these things were building up and I tried to swallow it back like I always do but it did not work this time. I ran to the bathroom and called my mother on my cell phone. I didn't say anything when she picked up. I was just going to suck it up and think of something else to say. But the line from the song played again and again. Then it stopped and my tears began.

My mother consoled me over the phone until I stopped crying. She called some of the family and told them about my meltdown. I was embarrassed that everyone knew that I had been crying. But I also felt the love from everyone, because they all called and checked on me. The love was truly genuine.

The day of the funeral came. Every single person who spoke about my cousin talked about how happy, silly, and how full of life she was. I couldn't help but think that everyone, including me had seen everything but her sadness.

I also couldn't help but think that I was doing the same thing she was doing. I wasn't talking to people about my feelings.

Many people, especially in the black community, feel the need to be strong. Strong in the sense that they don't want to share their feelings and talk about what hurts them; they don't want to appear weak.

My cousin's death has made me realize that not stepping up and sharing my problems with the people who love me is weak. The real strength is being strong enough to admit my feelings and not worrying about how I will appear to others. The next time someone questions my happiness, this strength will enable me to say, "Yes, I am."

A Personal Journey



## Film Review

# 'Forgotten City' Tells Both Sides of Story

by Missy Bakker

The Wick Social Room does not witness a full house on many occasions, but Thursday, February 7th was an exception. The showing of "The Forgotten City," followed by a question and answer session with the creators of the movie drew a large crowd from the Daemen community, particularly the African American population.

"The Forgotten City," is a documentary that was created by Korey Green and Addison Henderson, two twenty-something males who grew up on Buffalo's East Side. When Jermaine Cross was shot and killed in 2001, these ambitious boys decided that something needed to be done to improve Buffalo, particularly the East Side. They decided creating a documentary would be a great solution. The ironic part of this true story is that one of these men was a friend of the victim, and the other was a friend of the killer. In an admirable manner they were able to put their differences aside to compile a movie that gives a sampling of what life on the East Side is like.

The movie represents perspectives from the majority of people residing in and working in/with the East Side. Henderson and Green interviewed everyone from Mayor Byron Brown, the superintendent of Buffalo City Schools, town council members, religious leaders, and East Side residents in all age groups.

One of the most shocking parts of the movie was a series of clips of young men who were eager to show their handguns on camera. It gave viewers a true snapshot of the attitudes and opinions of young men living on the East Side. Another disturbing scene was witnessing a young, black woman lying naked in a room full of men who were poking and prodding her to behave promiscuously.

"The Forgotten City" did not show just negative viewpoints. Sections of the movie focused on what is being done and beliefs about what should be done to improve this rough neighborhood. One glimmer of light shining through the despair is the \$1 billion that is going towards renovating city schools. Hopes are that an improvement in education will keep kids off the streets and help them earn better jobs.

After the documentary the audience was introduced to the filmmakers. The atmosphere in the Social Room became debate-like when Green and Henderson appeared at the front of the room. Many of the filmgoers were residents of the East Side, adding a spark to the conversation. The questions focused on what has been done and what can be done to improve the situation, and it seemed like everyone had a different opinion. One thing that was agreed upon, though, is that the East Side youth need better role models, and it can be said they have found two fabulous ones in Korey Green and Addison Henderson.

## Who's Afraid of Terryberry?

By Mary Otten

Fear.

That's the reaction most one of three boys in a Method-Daemen College students experience upon seeing Dr. Karl Terryberry's name on their class schedule. Now in his seventh year at Daemen, this professor is notorious for his seemingly impossible standards.

Those standards derive from Terryberry's desire to bring poor writers up to the level of the more capable writers, rather than catering to the weak.

"The goal of my class is to bring everyone into the same fold," Terryberry said in his cramped office in the English Department one rainy morning.

Terryberry is not oblivious to his reputation among students; however, he feels that he motivates rather than horrifies his students. This strict motivation is necessary, he says, to alter the students' "skewed perception about college."

According to Terryberry, students today do not view their years at college as a temporary job but rather as a time to socialize and party.

"Teaching and learning is two years and his doctorate in like a business," he said. two and a half years. To this

Terryberry's strict character day, no other student at USC springs from his upbringing as has earned a PhD that quickly.

Terryberry's initial impression of Daemen College students was a bit of a shock.

"I'd assumed the students here would be more prepared," he said. "Often at times it feels like I'm reinventing the wheel."

This writing instructor believes wholeheartedly that a person's intelligence and future success can be measured through his or her writing. Because of this he constantly challenges his students to reach higher.

His persistence for the ideal of perfection is viewed by many Daemen students as bring hard-mannered; Terryberry sees it as preparing his students for the future in world that isn't on their side.

**Dr. Karl Terryberry**

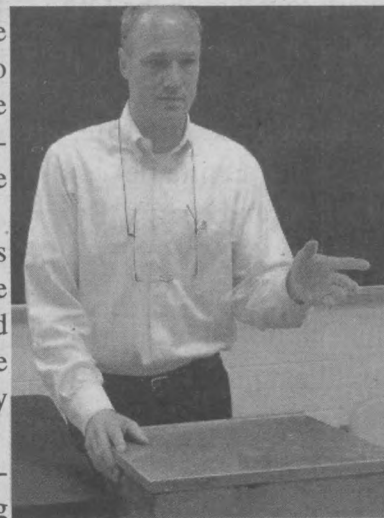
dancing and close contact with members of the opposite sex.

"This environment really helped me settle down and focus on my future," he explained,

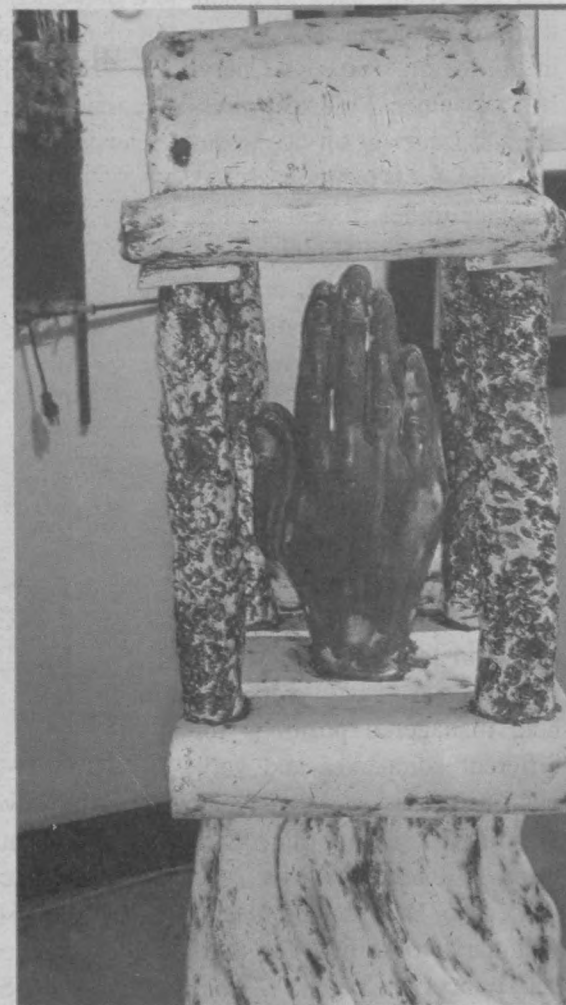
After earning his degree in 19th Century and Colonial American Literature, Terryberry journeyed to the University of South Carolina, where he completed his master's degree in

This man is on their side.

But his purpose is not to entertain or to become pals with his students. Rather, it is to be faithful to the concept that "the content should drive the course." And so, regardless of the fear factor, there is no denying that Dr. Karl Terryberry leaves his students with much better writing and grammar skills.



## All-High School Art Show



The annual All-High School Art Show at Daemen College featured sculptures, left "Void," by Rochelle Ricchiazzi of Sweet Home High School, and "Temple of Whispered Words," by Kyle McDonald of Lewiston-Porter High School



# Running for a Reason

by Missy Bakker

When Dan Nillson and Sara Walsh heard that a co-worker's husband had been diagnosed with leukemia they decided to help. Instead of making a traditional monetary donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, they took a more active step.

Nillson and Walsh are running to raise \$10,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of Dan DeCarlo. The two plan on participating in the Rock N' Roll Marathon on June 1 as part of a larger team named Team in Training.

Besides training solo and with the Team in Training, the duo has added a new twist to their fundraiser: they have been running on a treadmill in the Wick Center during

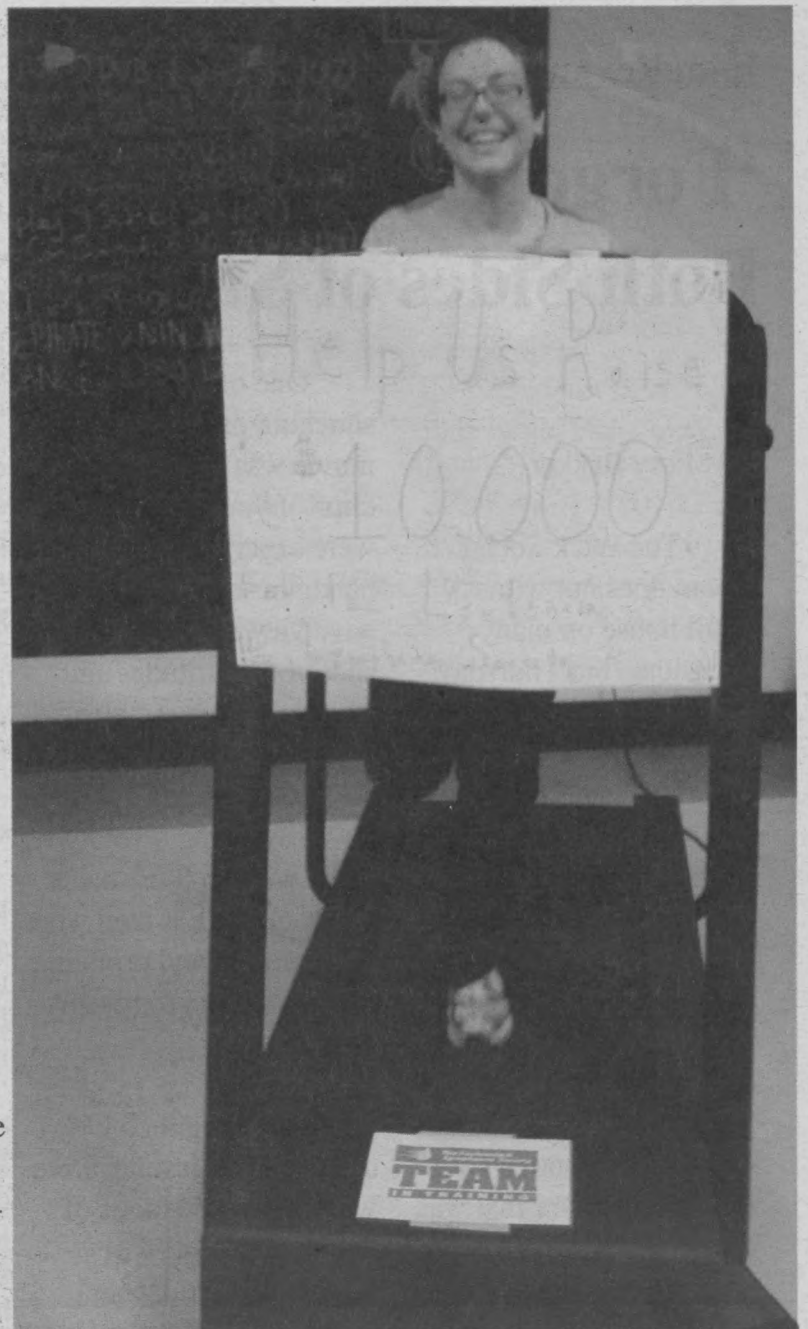
lunch times. During the week of March 18 Nillson and Walsh each spent two lunch hours running in an effort to increase awareness of the fundraiser and to raise money for the charity.

Nillson and Walsh are familiar with working on things together. They also work together in the Office of Residence Life, and with admirable commitment and energy. By the time the Rock N' Roll Marathon rolls around in June they will be in such excellent physical condition they will willingly run 26.2 miles (which puts all of our .2 mile walk to Wick to feed ourselves to shame).

One of the most honorable characteristics of the Leukemia and

Lymphoma Society is that "more than 75% of every dollar you give goes directly to research and patient services" said an already physically fit Walsh while she ran in Wick on March 18.

If you have not had an opportunity to support Daemen's representatives yet, donations can be made through the first week of May. Donations can be made in the Office of Residence Life as well as online. Nillson and Walsh each have websites established where you can read their training blogs. Visit <http://www.active.com/donate/tntwnyfl/dnilsson> for Nillson's page and <http://www.active.com/donate/tntwnyfl/Sara-Walsh> for Walsh's page, where they are tracking their running progress.



## Dr. Cheryl Bird Leads Daemen Service Learning

by Katelyn Pellegrino

"It is always nice to be working, progressing and making money in your career but it's not your life. It's the things like your family and the things you are giving back to others that are going to make a mark in this world." So says Cheryl Bird, Daemen College professor and leader in service learning, who wants to emphasize this message to her students and to others. Being a volunteer is a gratifying experience, one can gain perspective about different lifestyles and what it means to be selfless.

"A person can only benefit from the experience as a volunteer," she said.

Coming out of college at Oswego State, Mrs. Bird's main focus was making a successful career in the corporate world. For the next twenty years, she held managerial positions for different companies and various businesses in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. Still with a business orientated drive, she moved to Buffalo and began her time to help three specific voluntary consulting for Seneca Babcock Church. "That was the time I had met the first Daemen College students that were coming to help with their after-school program," she ex-

plained. It was this experience that opened her eyes to discover an interest in the academic and not-for-profit world.

The students and the college community inspired her to change from "Ms. Business" to a dedicated executive director of the Center for Sustainable Communities. Now, with a master's degree in executive leadership and change, her pas-



sion is for developing and improving community relations. Mrs. Bird currently devotes her time to help three specific low-income communities of Buffalo: the Seneca Babcock area, the West Side, and the Fruit Belt neighborhood. "Even though all three areas are low-income, all three are rich

in history," she said. Her goal has been to improve these communities mainly in educational, economical, and environmental areas.

Day to day Mrs. Bird works to place Daemen students and professors in service learning positions in these communities. She actively participates within the neighborhood on a number of projects that focus on educa-

tion, economy, and the environment. Whether it is motivating children and adolescents to complete their homework or encouraging fun activities, she is determined to create a positive and safe environment.

She describes her most memorable moment to be when one mother of the after-school

program was showing gratitude to her that "someone finally mentioned the word college to our kids." When there is little hope in the low-economy areas, the Daemen students are there as role models, and the opportunity for college is now an expectation for these children.

The creation of a Drama Club for the kids at Seneca Babcock has been a huge accomplishment for Cheryl and her voluntary workers. "This gives them a chance to be exposed to culture, arts or those types of enriching experiences," she said. For these kids living in this community, there is no money for dance lessons or music training. Cheryl sees the Drama Club as not only a way to build self-esteem and gain more confidence but an opportunity for them to witness theater in Buffalo, see the back stage of certain productions, and even have a chance to perform in different parts of the community.

Seeing the strong 'call of the streets' pull these kids back has been, as Cheryl describes, one of the most difficult things to witness. In some cases, the adverse conditions in these communities seem to stand in the way of these kids achieving

a better life regardless of Cheryl's and the programs efforts.

Over the years, after spending a lot of time with the kids and truly investing in their lives, Cheryl says it is "heart-breaking, as if it were one of your own kids" struggling. This only proves the dedication she feels for helping these less-fortunate children and the importance of education in order to "breakout of the generational poverty."

Mrs. Bird's office is filled with framed pictures from various activities and field-trips. Home-made cards drawn by the kids in the after-school program are hanging on display. They represent the love and support she provides and her commitment in making a better life for each of the children.

A heart-warming sense surrounds Mrs. Bird and can be seen through her compassionate eyes and in her enthusiastic voice. Daemen student Julie Sengstock, who had experience working with Mrs. Bird at Seneca Babcock, said, "she is truly invested and can be considered as a 'mother figure' for these children."

Cheryl Bird has built a strong loving relationship with the families while staying coordinated with the student volunteers and making sure everyone works together to achieve the same goals.



# Toronto Waiting to Pick Up Buffalo's Bills

by Justin Johnston

The thought of Buffalo losing the Bills is one that many area residents find very difficult to imagine. After all, the Bills have been here since their inception in 1959 and generations of western New Yorkers have watched or attended their games. The Bills are engrained in the culture of the area, so much so that the team still manages to sell out almost all home games, despite not making the playoffs since the 1999 season.

Over 65,000 Western New Yorkers (and about 10,000-15,000 Southern Ontario residents) brave very cold temperatures and inclement weather to sit in the stands and root for the team they love. Most Bills fans even arrive hours before kickoff, no matter the weather, to "tailgate" in the surrounding parking areas of Ralph Wilson Stadium. Although they have disappointed fans over the years, the Bills still hold a spot in the hearts of most residents. Even for fans of other NFL teams who live in this area, the Bills provide them the opportunity to see their favorite team play, in person, against the Bills occasionally.

It is no secret that Western New York is not exactly what you would call a thriving metropolis. The economy here has been in a decline and there is certainly not an excess of quality jobs in the area. Many students leave the area upon graduating from college to seek employment in other areas. Population has been declining consistently. According to Census data, in Erie County, where much of the Bills fan base is located, population has fallen from 1,113,491 in 1980 to an estimated 921,390 in 2006. This is more than 190,000 people and represents an incredible 17% decrease in only 25 years. And guess what? The trend shows no

sign of turning around.

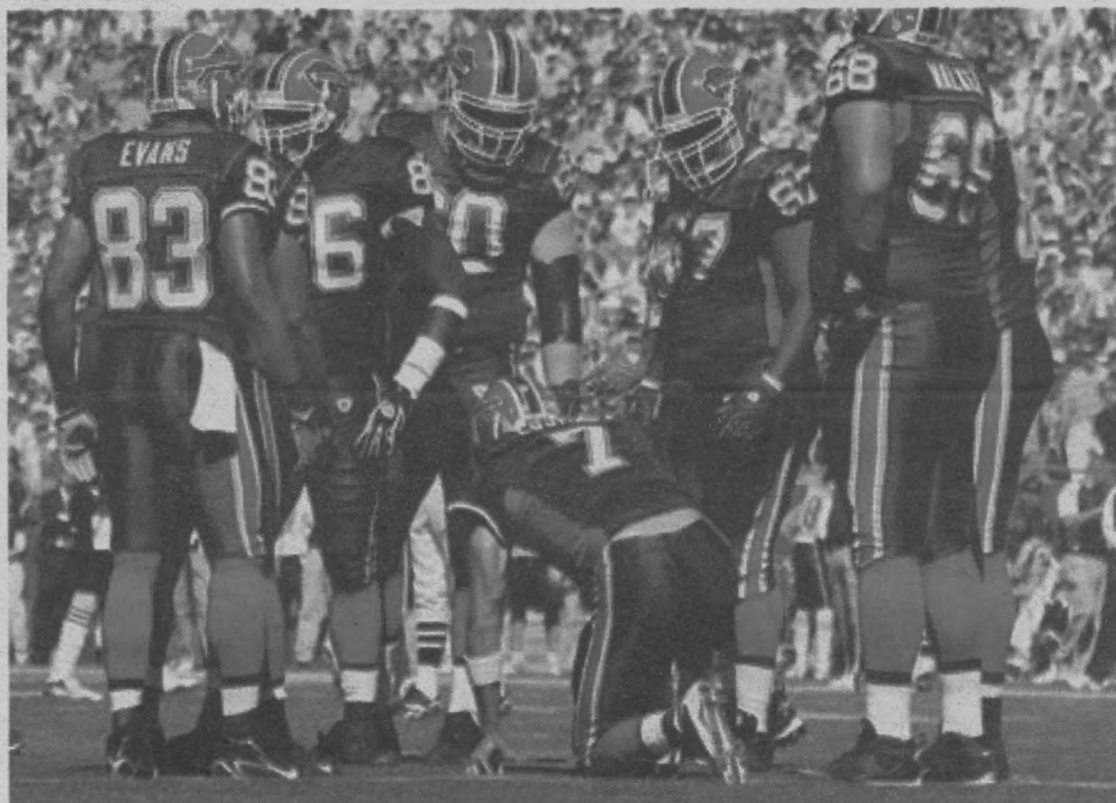
In an area of such declining appeal to outsiders, there have been, for decades, two important ways for Buffalonians to feel important on a national level. In the world of professional sports, Buffalo makes its mark with the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. Through those two teams, Buffalo means something to people in larger cities. On any given day or night we can actually be on equal footing with larger cities such as Philadelphia or New York City, at least on the ice or field of play.

The city nearly lost its beloved Sabres a few years

ago before Rochester-based billionaire, B. Thomas Golisano, stepped up and saved the day by buying the team, ensuring it would stay in the area for at least the near future.

sign of turning around. is beginning to scare Bills soon. However, there are other factors to consider. Recently, the Bills agreed to play 8 "home" games over the next five years in Toronto, Canada. The goal of this agreement is to expand the market of the Bills and attract fans and investors from Canada's largest and richest city to invest in teams. The team has the luxury boxes and corporate sponsorship of the Bills. One regular season game average cost of \$51.24 per year and one preseason ticket, the Bills are an NFL game every other year will be played in Toronto's Rogers Centre. The agreement expires in 2012. That's right--the city nearly lost its beloved Sabres a few years

ago before Rochester-based billionaire, B. Thomas Golisano, stepped up and saved the day by buying the team, ensuring it would stay in the area for at least the near future.



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That brings us to the other team, the Bills. Scary signs have been emerging recently that the future of the Bills in Buffalo may be in jeopardy. Fans can rest assured that the team will be here for at least five more seasons, as the team's lease agreement with Erie County expires in 2012. The Bills lease may very well be renewed when the time comes. However, another agreement signed recently by the Bills is the one that

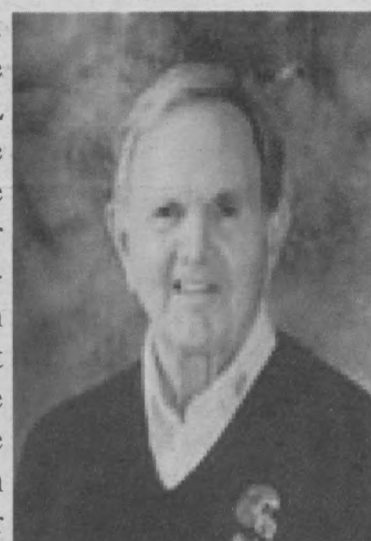
ago before Rochester-based billionaire, B. Thomas Golisano, stepped up and saved the day by buying the team, ensuring it would stay in the area for at least the near future.

Without a new lease agreement, or one with a new Buffalo-based stadium, the Bills would be free to move to another city. This is one huge area where conspiracy theorists, or simply concerned fans, take notice. What better city than Toronto? It is Canada's largest and wealthiest city and already includes franchises in the National Hockey League, National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball and even Major League Soccer. Why not add a National Football League franchise as well? Such speculation would normally be unwarranted so

ago before Rochester-based billionaire, B. Thomas Golisano, stepped up and saved the day by buying the team, ensuring it would stay in the area for at least the near future.

Also, Bills owner Ralph Wilson is not getting any younger at the age of 89, and he has been reluctant to make a statement solidifying the Bills remaining in Buffalo when he passes away. He refuses to speculate on who will own the team upon his demise but has pledged to keep it here as long as he is alive, however long that may be.

Making matters worse is that Ted Rogers, owner of the Toronto Blue Jays and Rogers Centre, along with Larry Tanenbaum, Chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, Ltd., have expressed interest in the past in bringing an



Ralph Wilson

NFL franchise to Toronto. Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, Ltd. owns the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, as well as the newly added Major League Soccer club, Toronto FC. Between those two men, ownership of all Toronto professional sports are represented, and they are salivating at the chance to add to their repertoire.

In short, all hope is not lost, but the future is also not crystal clear. During the next five years, Bills fans will be tested and asked to show loyalty to the team. Showing support bodes well for the Bills' future here in Buffalo. Without support, the greatest reason to stay here--an established fan base--would be gone. Also, perhaps economic benefits from the agreement with Toronto can help the team compete on a more level playing field financially by drawing in more corporate backing, which would give the team newfound longevity in the area. The addition of games in Toronto may work out well for the Buffalo Bills franchise. However, there is of course the potential that the Toronto agreement could work out too well. It goes without saying what that could lead to.

You know what I mean, eh?



# Airplanes for Hunter Majors Geared Toward Females

by Naget Hassouneh

Walking through Canavan Hall, you will see many posters and flyers for a variety of events, but only one has a message actually worth reading. "Make a plane for Hunter..." The person who is asking you to make these planes is Joanne Rohe, the resident assistant on the third floor of Canavan. This heading is then followed by a description of who Hunter is and why you should make a paper plane for him.

Joanne Rohe is a second year student at Daemen College and a first time resident assistant, and she is interested in more than passing her classes.

Rohe, originally from Freedom, New York, has traveled outside of the U.S. to the Dominican Republic. This trip was not at all recreational. She spent her time there painting and helping with the construction of school buildings. She also has even traveled to Detroit, Michigan, where she visited inner city schools, homeless shelters and a shelter for battered women. She and others on the trip helped clean these places and did what they could to make the living circumstances better for those who are less fortunate.

"I feel like I'm making a difference", Rohe stated firmly when asked why she is so involved with service trips, as well as this paper airplane activity. When asked who Hunter was, her face saddened as she went on to explain, "Hunter is in my little brother's class, and his older sister rode the bus to school with me. He is only five years old and was recently diagnosed with a rare form of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma called Burkitt's. His mother entered him in the Guinness World Book of Records to receive the most paper airplanes, and I'm doing my best to help collect them for his cause."

In addition to her services, Rohe is also the treasurer of PASS, the Physician Assistant Student Society. She is a physician assistant major and when asked why she chose such a major she responded with a smile, "Physician assistance is a service oriented field and I feel that everyone deserves to be helped."

Rohe wishes to have a great impact on others and to help with anything she can. She believes that, "Just because a person is born to a certain family, doesn't mean they don't have the right to the



**Joanne Rohe**

same things others born in a different family do."

It is only her second year in college and she has her plate full of student activities, oriented in service of course, as well as a project that hits very close to home. Not only is Hunter her neighbor, but her boyfriend's mother is his teacher. She is deeply touched by this project and hopes many others are just as influenced.

As the interview came to a close and she was asked for final words, she said with deep concern in her voice, "I hope enough people will spare five minutes of their time to make a paper plane for Hunter, because I know his family and he will appreciate it deeply."

## Boys (cont pg 3)

male-dominated.

Not only is Daemen's history to blame for the imbalance of men and women, Daemen's majors are predominately female oriented. Majors such as Education (specifically Elementary Education), Art, Psychology, and English attract a larger number of women than men. Daemen is not the only institution that is experiencing this phenomenon. It is a nationwide trend that should be a cause for concern. The growing number of female students in the classroom was first observed nationally in 1978, yet it still has not been recognized as the problem that it is. Because of our cultural perceptions about men, many people

do not recognize the issue at hand. When society sees men who dominate as CEOs of large companies, politicians, and doctors it is hard to be concerned about the growing number of males who are not seeking higher education.

With the growing importance of higher education, men without a college degree will find themselves at a loss in many areas of their lives. Statistics from an article that appeared in the Washington Post show that a young man who doesn't complete high school or attend college will usually earn about half of what a college graduate earns. Michael Gurian, author of "The Minds of Boys: Saving our Sons From Falling Behind in School and Life" explained that other effects on men who do not further

their education include: a greater risk of being unemployed, of being homeless, of becoming divorced, or engaging in violence and crime, and being more likely to develop a substance abuse problem.

With the complications of not attending college, men should be encouraged to seek a higher education just as much as females. It was once women who needed to be urged to seek a higher education, but the tables have turned. There is a great concern for the future of these young men who are opting out of college. If the situation does not change soon, the US and its male citizens may be facing a dismal future.

## Work Pays off for Graduates

From pg. 1

Lastly, the physician assistant graduates reported a median average salary of \$60,000 to \$64,999.

One point that should inspire you as you stay up late to cram for a test, or to finish that project last minute, is that the majority of graduates reported being very satisfied with their jobs. In fact, 81% of the Class of 2006 reported that they are either very satisfied or satisfied with their current jobs. This statistic is one of the most important factors to realize when thinking about the future. Money can't keep you happy forever, but when you have a job that inspires you to come to work every day, you truly have a fulfilled life.

Upon comparing percentage rates from previous years, an interesting trend was found. In 2005, 94% of the Daemen College graduates reported having either a full or part time job. This was 4% more than the 2006 result of 90%. Is this because

the job market is slowly decreasing, and jobs are harder to find within your first year after graduation? The answer is, "No!"

A further look at the data showed that the current trend is for students to go onto graduate school. 25% of 2006 graduates went on to a graduate school either full or part time, compared to 21% of graduates from 2005. Compared to previous years, students have either been intrinsically motivated to further their education, or felt like they needed to go to graduate school in order to stand out above all the other job candidates with their bachelor degrees.

"Grad School can be very difficult if you don't know what you want to do, but it can be much easier and more beneficial when you know exactly what you want to do," said Huber. Students should go to graduate school for the right reasons, not because they are pressured to do so.

## No A/C

From pg. 1

states that, "A considerable body of research about environmental design shows the positive effect comfort can have on learning, human productivity, and creativity". With students in discomfort, many feel they aren't getting the best education that this school has to offer.

Teachers have said that they worry about staying comfortable, and then talk about how hot it is in the classroom, and they often let the students out early.

Shannon Billi, who has been attending Daemen for two years said, "I don't even feel like going to class, especially on the hot days". A professor who has been teaching here for several years, who doesn't want her name revealed said, "The situation with the air conditioning is ridiculous and something needs to be done about it".

Sweitzer said air conditioning in Duns Scotus would be a whole other project. It is now in the design stage. Then comes the cost, which is a major factor, and following that come many questions.